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teaching the next generation to

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dumped like this," said Allen, adding that in his experience the people aren't enough enforcement people to check every one."

Parents petition for change

By JOHN CAMPBELL
Post Staff Writer

A petition bearing the names of 40,000 Canadians who want to bring back the death penalty "speaks loudly" for that point of view, MP Russell MacLellan said Monday.

MacLellan, who personally opposes the return of capital punishment, made the comment after receiving the petition and meeting with the parents of the McDonald's murder victims.

He said he'll either present the petition to Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Justice Minister Alan Rock personally or accompany family members if they wish to present it themselves.

Neil Burroughs Sr., whose son Neil was a victim of the May 7, 1992 robbery and shootings, indicated a decision on the manner of presentation has not yet been made.

"Maybe a delegation will go with him (MacLellan)," said Burroughs, noting that the petition is still gathering names and the organizers will let the MP know "a few weeks down the road."

Burroughs described the session with MacLellan as "a pretty fair discussion" and expressed the hope that the petition would do some good.

"If we can get just a smidgen of change in our justice system as it is today it's going to help," he told an impromptu news conference at MacLellan's office in Sydney.

The petition also calls for a change in Canadian law to allow for consecutive sentencing of those convicted in multiple murder cases.

MacLellan, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Justice, said the Liberals campaign red book spelled out areas of the system where the new government will want to see changes made and change is already in process.

"Society changes and the laws must change as well," said the MP, noting that despite his personal views on capital punishment his responsibility is to put forward the views of his constituents.

He said petitions are "a very important part of the democratic process" and the points of view expressed by the parents will "mean a lot" in the legislative restructuring process.

While no vote on capital punishment is planned at the moment, said MacLellan there is the possibility of a private member's bill that could open the way to a vote.

Al Fagan, whose son Jimmy was shot to death during the robbery, welcomed the meeting with MacLellan as a chance to speak his mind.

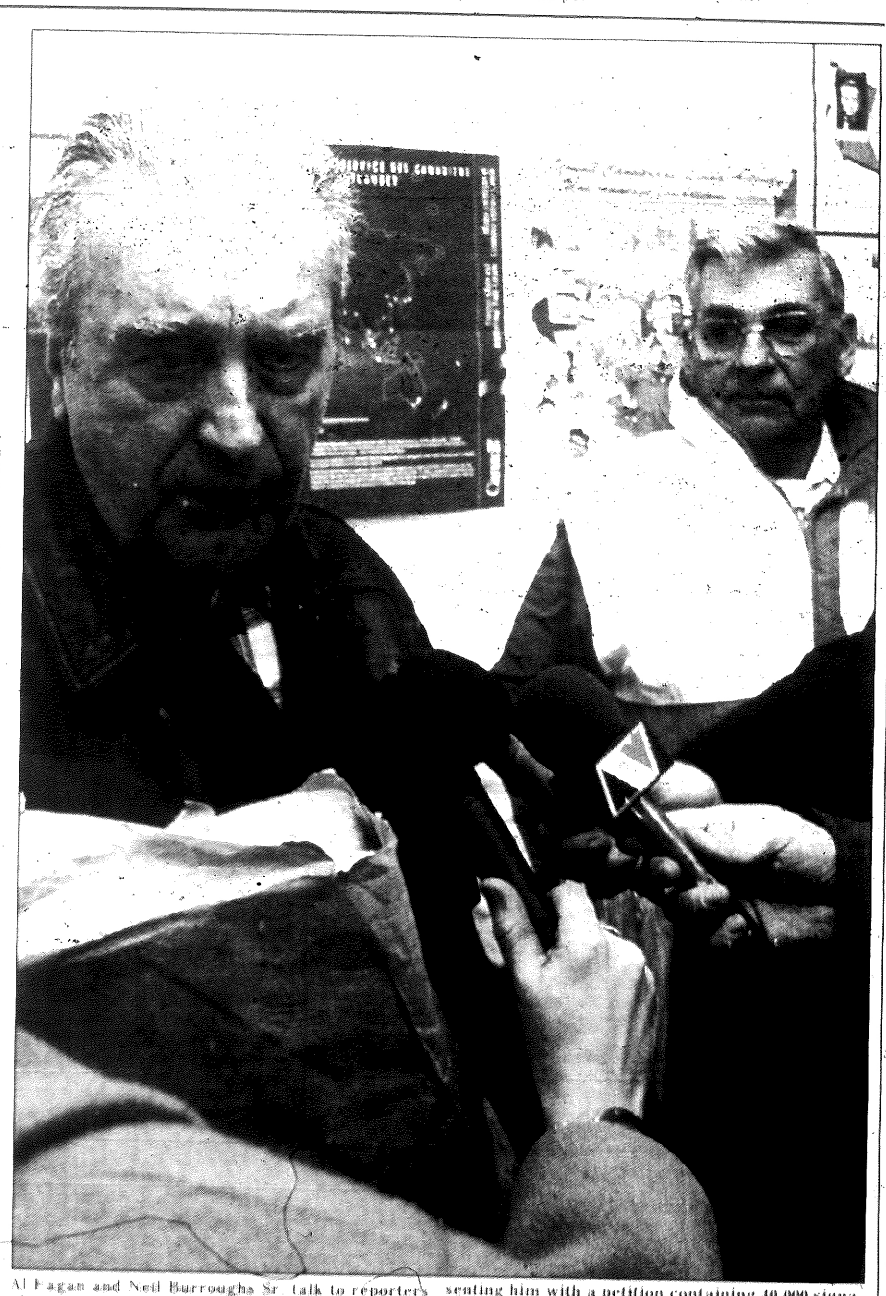
"We haven't been able to say anything during the trial. This gives us an opportunity to say a little anyway."

He said the petition will eventually go country wide and should have an impact on government.

"I think if a referendum was held people would vote for the death penalty," he said, adding that "parliament doesn't want to offend anyone for various reasons."

Fagan said that in the United States murderers, rapists and child molesters are walking the streets after a few years in jail.

"It's not that bad here yet but it will be," said Fagan, lamenting the growing lack of remorse among young people convicted of violent crimes.



Al Fagan and Neil Burroughs Sr. talk to reporters after meeting with MP Russell MacLellan and presenting him with a petition containing 40,000 signatures asking for the return of capital punishment.
Post photo by Ray Fahey

The future of the LSI Logic plant at Sydport is still being sorted out, former manager Lorne Burrell said Monday.

"It will be a week or two before we have a final answer," Burrell told the Post in a telephone interview from Edmonton.

Burrell is one of four former managers of LSI Logic Corporation of Canada Inc. who have bought out the Edmonton-based company's electronic circuit board assembly operation and are negotiating for the Sydport plant as well.

In December the corporation announced it was divesting itself of the circuit board assembly plants in Edmonton and Sydney, where 15 employees have been laid off pending word on the fate of the operation.

The company wants to emphasize its semiconductor and engineering business. It also blamed weaker than expected financial performance from the board operation for part of the decision to unload it.

The former managers are conducting the talks with the plant's owners and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA).

LSI Logic Corporation spokesperson, Paul Carpino said last week could not support the circuit board operation or expand it if business did not dictate.

Negotiations are now underway between LSI Logic and Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) on an agreement that would allow the sale of the Sydport plant to the group.

Burrell said that would have to happen before the employee group would be able to buy the operation.

ACOA/ECBC vice president Pat Bates last week declined to be specific on the corporation's involvement in the fate of the plant except to say it was "a complicated process that might clarify itself in the next 10 days."

Carpino said the conditions of their getting a $6.3 million contribution from ACOA in 1986 had been fulfilled.

The new owners plan to continue the Sydport operation, which builds circuit boards for a Halifax company that makes products for the military.

Burrell hopes to manage the Sydport plant and add an engineering department to do research and development work, customer support and redesign and develop its own products.

City council critical of Sunday shopping

City council added its voice to the chorus of criticism directed at Sunday shopping.

Responding to a letter from the Sydney Downtown Development Association (SDDA), aldermen unanimously voiced their opposition to Sunday shopping and instructed the mayor to convey their stand to the premier.

The province's pre-Christmas experiment with Sunday shopping as a potential sales tax booster has met mostly negative reaction from all sides of the issue.

The SDDA told council Sydney store owners see Sunday shopping having a negative effect on the family life of retail employees, particularly in smaller businesses where existing staff would have to work every day of the week.

The store owners see no financial benefit because Sunday shopping spreads weekly sales over seven days instead of six.

They said the concept favors large malls and suggested that if it is to be allowed at all, Sunday shopping should only happen on the last two shopping Sundays in December.

Legal arguments dominate Sydney man's assault trial

Crown, defence voice wide variety of objections

By STEVE MACINNIS
Post Staff Writer

The trial for a Sydney man accused of severely beating a Victoria County woman continued to be bogged down in legal arguments when the case resumed Monday.

Both the Crown and defence voiced numerous objections to questions surrounding testimony from a bail hearing, the criminal record of the accused and credibility of witnesses.

The trial for Parker Douglas Rudderham, 36, began in November, continued in December before reconvening Monday and will resume Thursday.

Rudderham — who has been remanded since last May — has pleaded not guilty to two counts of assault and one count of sexual assault and assault causing bodily harm. Information leading to the identity of the victim is prohibited from publication.

Of particular concern Monday was the introduction of Rudderham's testimony from the bail hearing which defence lawyer Darcy MacPherson said could not be used at the trial.

Provincial court Judge Stan Campbell agreed and restricted questioning by Crown Attorney Doug Lloy but allowed MacPherson to play a taped portion of the hearing to dispute the credibility of his own witness at the trial — the son of the victim.

The boy admitted he told Rudderham he'd kill him after he got out of jail for what he did to his mother.

MacPherson also objected to the introduction of Rudderham's criminal record on grounds the Crown failed to disclose part of the record released in court which included fines for impersonating a police officer, theft and driving while suspended.

The woman spent two weeks in hospital suffering from injuries she said were inflicted by Rudderham last May 16 at her home.

Rudderham has denied the allegations saying the injuries resulted from a fall while the woman was jogging.

In continuing his testimony Monday, Rudderham said he did accept $17,000 from the woman as a reimbursement for a Rolex watch and other jewelry.

He said he drove the woman to the hospital but wasn't sure if he asked any hospital staff about her condition.

When asked by Lloy if he was a violent man, Rudderham responded "no, absolutely untrue."

Lloy attempted to introduce other evidence from Rudderham's ex-wife indicating a violent behavior but the court ruled it inadmissible.

The woman's sister also testified Monday saying last April 25 she saw Rudderham raise his hand to the woman in what appeared to be an assault.

She said she called the RCMP to report the incident but RCMP Sgt. Dale King testified there is no record of the call at the Sydney RCMP telecommunications office.

The Crown had already completed its case but was allowed to re-open it in calling the woman's sister making her the fourth witness to testify.

Six witnesses have testified for the defence.

Police attempt to solve theft

Briefly

City/Area

Council to meet

City council will meet in regular session Thursday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the council chambers, Civic Centre. Items for the agenda must be submitted to the city clerk's office by 4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17.

Information booths

In conjunction with National Non-Smoking Week, Jan. 17-23 the Sydney Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society will have information booths at the Mayflower Mall, Tuesday, Jan. 18 and Sydney Shopping Centre, Weedless Wednesday, Jan. 19.

Brochures on second-hand smoke will be available along with a do-it-yourself guide to quit smoking. Other booklets will also be available.

Police need help

Crime Stoppers needs your help this week to solve a crime of theft in the Sydney area.

Sometime between 6 p.m. Jan. 5 and 8 a.m. Jan. 6, 1994 culprits entered the fenced compound of Dave's Cycle, 455 Grand Lake Rd. They slid a snowmobile on the snow, over the fence, pulled it between two neighboring houses and loaded in on the back of a truck and departed. The snowmobile is described as a 1989 Yamaha Phaser, model #P2480-N, licence AU5 487, red and white in color.

Anyone who may have any information about this crime of theft is requested to contact the RCMP Re-